

to be returned to the purchaser. Therefore he refused to take anything.

This scrupulous honesty of the Imam has scarcely any parallel in the commercial dealings of the world and is entirely the result of the fear of God inspired by Islam into the hearts of its followers.

STORY 3.

SERVICE THE ESSENCE OF RELIGION.

It is related of (Hazrat) Abu Baker the immediate successor of the Prophet of Islam that he took special delight in waiting upon the sick, and infirm because he believed this to be the essence of religion.

On the outskirts of Madina there lived a very old blind woman who had nobody to look after her. (Hazrat) Omar came to know of the forlorn condition of the woman and made it a rule to visit her cottage in the early hours of the morning and to do every thing necessary for her comfort.

After a few days he had reason to believe that some one preceded him in his mission of mercy. Impelled by curiosity to find out who the good Samaritan was who thus deprived him of the joy of being the first in benevolence, he one day went a little earlier than usual and was glad to find his guess justified, for he saw none other than (Hazrat) Abu Baker himself leaving the cottage after doing the requisite personal service to the old woman. (Hazrat) Omar could not help exclaiming "O Caliph of the Prophet you always precede me in every good work, may God bless you."